

A founder and a leader. These two words describe, to the briefest, **Charles Rainger's** legacy both at the Community Foundation and in the surrounding area. His time spent at local organizations and his presence in the community has helped the area to thrive in terms of philanthropy, business, and, most importantly, a sense of good-natured camaraderie.



Chuck grew up in East Cleveland, the first suburb of Cleveland, and attended Case Institute of Technology where he graduated in 1955 as a metallurgical engineer. He spent the summers of 1953 and 1954 working in Sandusky at Sandusky Foundry and Machine Company (now known as Sandusky International). Upon graduating, he was hired full time as a production metallurgist. In 1982 he became President and CEO of the business, and remained in these positions until his retirement in 1996. As a part of his work, he had the opportunity to travel abroad to many different countries, including Brazil, Japan, Poland, Canada, and a variety of countries in Western Europe. Of the places he's visited, Germany stands out as one of his favorites.

Throughout his 41 year engineering, sales, and management career for Sandusky International, Chuck accomplished a wide variety of undertakings, including researching, developing, and being a co-inventor of a new patented alloy, "Alloy 86." The most rewarding part of his career? The challenge. "I just like the challenge," he said. "Meeting new people, different countries, I guess I never met people I didn't like over there."

Chuck has been a part of the Erie County Community Foundation since its founding (then known as the Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation). During the period of establishment, Sandusky International was a supporter of the Foundation, and Chuck, serving as President and CEO of the business, joined the Community Foundation as a member of the first Board of Directors. He served on the board until the end of 2014, and was named a Director Emeritus in 2015. Along with this role, he remains on the Building and Investment Committees at the Foundation.

The leadership given to the Community Foundation is only one facet of Chuck's positive presence in the community. He has been involved with the Sandusky State Theatre since 1989, where he is now a Director Emeritus; LEADS (Leadership Enrichment And Development Sandusky), now known as LEC (Leadership Erie County); the board of First Energy; Firelands Health System, to which he was a member; and The Foundation for Firelands, to which he is still a director. Throughout his time spent living in Erie County, he has enjoyed the benefits of the local small town atmosphere, specifically the water and the proximity to many entertainment destinations.



Today, Chuck spends his free time fly fishing, bike riding, traveling, and raising roses, among many other hobbies. He looks toward the future with the hope that the City of Sandusky will continue on a path of successful development, and that the Erie County Community Foundation will continue to grow and receive support from the generosity of its people. A member since its conception, Chuck has watched the Foundation grow from zero to twenty million in assets in twenty years, and has supported philanthropy that has improved the local area immensely. It is this sort of dedication and experience that individuals like Chuck bring to the Foundation that help it not only to prosper, but to serve as a representation of the committed generosity of such founders and leaders.